



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



APRIL 11 OPEN FULL MOON

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon in the upstairs chapel at the First Unitarian Church at 14th and Lafayette in Denver. The church doors open at 7, and we like to start at 7:30. This month's ritual is FRIDAY, April 11, 2014.

At the April 11th ritual, the Denver Celtic Women's Circle will lead us in celebrating the fourth moon of the year since the Winter Solstice, also known as the Willow Moon. For this moon, they have chosen to honor the Goddess Brigit and the unity of Celtic practice across the world.

The power of the Willow is strength with flexibility. In ancient times it was cut low and allowed to sprout multiple stems which were harvested to provide structure to walls and boats. It was used medicinally, containing the chemical which is the basis of aspirin. Willow is a water tree and a giving tree.

Brigit's name can be pronounced bree-yit, or breed. Her name can be found across the lands that the Celts ruled and is the root of words that meant boundary, territory and high hill. She was little mentioned in Irish myth but beloved as a saint and She is worshiped in our time by more people than She ever was, even in the time of the great Celtic expansion. Because of how easily She is loved by people of different traditions, even different faiths, we can come together and experience Her power to draw people together in peace, strength and celebration.

We honor Brigit this moon and Her great power to join us together in joy.

The Denver Celtic Women's Circle uses the Tree Ogham as a framework for exploring Celtic spiritual practice. We honor and explore the Celtic Goddesses throughout the year. The Celtic path is a rich source of strength and guidance for all.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

April in Denver – of course that means we got five inches of snow. I usually don't get out much in the snow, except to shovel it. That has been reinforced this year due to my own clumsiness. Hopping about in the snow with a cast or a boot doesn't work very well.

My mother has a windmill in her back yard, complete with a Dala horse – a particularly Swedish decoration. Her family immigrated to Kansas from Sweden in the mid- to late 1800s, and we have celebrated that heritage for as long as I can remember. We had Swedish bread, cookies, cake, cheese cake (ostkaka with lingonberries, yum), coffee, sausage... you get the idea. I can even speak a very few Swedish words. Although my father's family had been on the American continent for several generations before, it was the Swedish culture we celebrated. It continues to be a bond between all the members of our family.

During the last snowstorm, I looked out into the back yard and saw the windmill coated in snow – so much so that the blades could not turn. It was an incredibly beautiful sight: white windmill blades covered in snow, the red hub just barely visible, and the blue Dala horse hanging down as a balance behind the blade. By afternoon when I got home, most of the snow had melted. This is April in Denver: snow balanced by bright colors, then melting back into the earth to help the spring and summer come in. Happy Spring!

–Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone's March Open Full Moon experience was an uplifting Eostar-themed ritual, for which we offer Thanks and a Tip of our Hat to Amy. Catherine first led us in a nice grounding exercise, and Amy's children Mars and Alora cleansed the circle and all participants.

After fully casting circle, Amy talked about how those aspects in our lives which we want to grow are like seeds or eggs, and to grow they need love, warmth, light, nourishment, and community. We are here to offer compassion, understanding, and help to one another, so we all may be nourished. Amy asked each participant to take one or several small glittery colored "eggs" for our altars. We had time for silent meditation to focus our desires, visualize the outcomes as currently existing, and charge our eggs with our visions and energies. Amy affirmed "We really do deserve what we want, what we choose to bring into our lives!"

Thank you, Amy, for encouraging us to manifest our dreams, and to support and nourish one another's dreams.

Happy Spring to all!

–Arynn

HEARTHSTONE RITUALS

Remember, please, that Hearthstone doesn't expect everyone to enter in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, as there are people you don't know there, but to enter with a willing heart and an open mind, and leave your differences at the door.

Some traditions are more controversial than others, or may contain a component that disturbs someone attending an Open Full Moon. It is one of the risks of exploring different traditions. Should anyone be uncomfortable, unsettled, or upset about any ritual presented by Hearthstone, please contact Alia or Catherine to discuss – and hopefully resolve and heal – the issue.

–Alia

ON DONATIONS

Many of our local Pagan organizations run on a shoestring. Your donations do make a difference, and the cost of a movie ticket to one of these organizations from several of their patrons can make the difference between failing and thriving. (Not to mention making the organizers excited and happy that their efforts are of value to you.) If you'd prefer not to donate to Hearthstone, I encourage you to donate something to the organization of your choice. Your donations can make the difference between an organization thriving and folding.

We appreciate that many of you donate to the church. **We ask that you please give what you can to support the work and service of the church to the community. The more you can spare, the longer we will be around, and the more we can help those who need it. We will keep Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. running as long as possible, and we need your support to continue to serve the community.**

We aren't going to start collecting at the door, and no one will be turned away for not having a donation. However, we would like to suggest a donation of 5 to 10 dollars per person. (The extra is to cover the pagans that are unable to donate.) If you can't afford it, you are still welcome – if you can afford more, we'd be delighted to accept it.

NOTE: Hearthstone is a church and your donations to Hearthstone are **tax deductible**. If you would like to write a check so you can keep track of your donations, we can certainly handle that as well.

–*Alia*

A-GARDENING, I SHALL GO

Every year, I find myself thinking of my father. It is more than just the fact that his birthday was in April. Springtime itself is a reminder of my father. And this year, the memories have been especially hard.

One of my father's hobbies was gardening. I learned my baseline gardening techniques from my father, who dug up a section of every backyard that he ever owned to plant vegetables. Gardening was a year-round hobby for him. In the fall, he would rake the yards of our neighbors to collect their leaves, so that he could compost them. In the winter, he talked about what he wanted to grow in the next season. And in the spring, he would prepare the ground and start planting the vegetables that he would start harvesting in the summer, and into the fall.

This spring, I am going to be turning the area between the sidewalk and the curb into an herb and vegetable garden, or maybe a flower bed. It is hard to tell what it is going to end up as. I tend to enjoy a wilder look to my garden than he did. My wife would have liked his neat rows, and well-weeded beds. My gardening looks more like someone started to garden and then abandoned it to work on another project, which results in one debating if the herbs are weeds or actually wanted plants.

Unlike my father, I prefer growing herbs and wildflowers. Maybe it is simply the fact that I am not supplementing the diets of eight kids with my garden, or maybe it is the fact that herbs actually produce the best rate of return for the investment. Or maybe, as my wife likes to point out, I am simply lazy. Remember, my wife likes neat, well weeded gardens – I am not sure that there is any way for both of us to be happy about the appearance of my garden – and if I am doing all the work, well, I get to win.

I am not sure if Dad would have ever considered a curbside garden. I am not sure that Mom would have let him grow vegetables in the front. Mom likes flowers – my love of flowers might come from her. I helped not only my father garden, but also my mom. And no, she likes neat well weeded areas also, so one cannot blame my weedy looking herbs on her either.

One of the questions that I get asked about my curbside gardening idea is whether I am concerned about the neighbors stealing my vegetables and herbs. Not really. I plan on growing herbs that act like weeds. If the neighbors want to harvest lemon balm, I don't care, as long as they do not pull up the entire plant. And as for the main vegetable I plan to grow, it is better that the neighbors steal it willingly than it is for me to leave it on their doorstep and ring the doorbell at three in the morning (yes that is right – I am growing zucchini). I learned that from my parents – zucchini is almost a weed.

So that is my big project of the season, to dig up a patch of grass that is hard to get the lawn mower down to, and replace the weeds with other, less annoying weeds. Yes, it makes me think of my father a lot, but growing herbs and vegetables is better than the hard-to-mow weedy area I currently have in front of my house.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: <http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

FUN FART FACTS

In honor of Turtle Monkey's new book, I decided to write a fun article about one of Turtle Monkey's favorite subjects: Farts!

1. There is a national fart day. (Not sure if this is completely accurate, but various websites found on Google claim it is January 7th. Turtle Monkey is of the opinion that every day is fart day.)
2. The average person farts 15 times a day. Thank you Nickelodeon, my daughter loved that bit. (Turtle Monkey claims that it is more). <http://crowdtube.tv/watch/nickelodeon-makes-a-psa-about-farts/>
3. Farts have been clocked at 10 feet per second.
4. Farts are flammable.
5. Termites fart more than any other animal on the planet.
6. If you hold them in during the day, you will let them go when you are asleep.
7. People fart after death.
8. You cannot suffocate in a chamber of your own farts.
9. Hydrogen sulfide is the compound that makes farts stink.
10. The nerve endings in your rectum help distinguish poop from farts, unless the poops are liquid, then out comes the shart!

3-7 obtained from: http://www.oddee.com/item_98612.aspx

8-10 obtained from: <http://visual.ly/your-farts-facts>

I will leave you with a great link for the best live TV farts:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ti9NgDqYxo>

Stay well

----Jo Fontana, RN

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

Hi all, this is Jo again. I recently completed the 13th books of my new Turtle Monkey series! This is a pagan friendly children's ebook series. They are available at Smashwords <http://www.smashwords.com/books/search?query=Jo+Fontana> and Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=sr_nr_seeall_1?rh=k%3AJo+Fontana%2Ci%3Astripbooks&keywords=Jo+Fontana&ie=UTF8&qid=1384142676

We are also available through Barnes & Noble and the Apple iBookstore.

-Jo

BELTANIA 2014

May 8-11 near Florence, CO
A Pagan Beltane Festival and MusicFest

Special Guest: Selena Fox of Circle Sanctuary

Rev. Selena Fox is senior minister and high priestess of Circle Sanctuary, a Wiccan church, Pagan resource center, and Nature preserve with a worldwide Ecospirituality ministry that includes networking, publishing, education, environmental preservation, counseling, events sponsoring, and other work.

In recent years she is most well known for her work at the federal level securing the right for Pagan veterans to have pentacles on tombstones.

For more than thirty years, Rev. Fox has served as one of the elders, religious freedom activists, and public media spokespersons for the Wiccan religion and related forms of contemporary Paganism and Nature religion, nationwide and internationally.

Musical Performances By:

Tuatha,
Odin's Other Eye,
Pandora Celtica
Jeffrey Gray
Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir
NameSinger
Marcy Stonecipher
Skean Dubh
Djembe Cowboys
DreamWeaver

Fire Performances by Firegate and Spirits of Fire

Tickets and Info at www.beltania.org

Beltania is an international festival of about 450-750 people. Proceeds of this nonprofit festival benefit Living Earth Center, an open and public Pagan church facility at 2120 S Holly St., Denver CO 80222. We hold 20-35 rituals and other events every month. Info at meetup.com/livingearth

---Joy Burton

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. All of our dates are Saturday evenings. Please arrive at the store before 7:30 pm, since the store closes and the doors lock right at 7:30. Please check out our Witchvox page for more info about us: http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084. Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!

Apr 26
May 24
June 28
July 19
Aug 23
Sep 20
Nov 1
Nov 22

Dec 20

---Chris, Dara, and Michelle
the Earth Temple steering committee

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. Catherine's is 303-886-7067. If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, for Pagan or Wiccan clergy, or for any other Hearthstone business, please contact either Alia or Catherine.

Hearthstone Community Church has a website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

Alia's e-mail address is real.cuttlefish@gmail.com; Catherine's e-mail address is catherine@fnorky.com

GUEST COLUMNS?

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Alia or Catherine edit it slightly, (generally for grammar – Alia has the soul of an English teacher and Catherine is simply a fanatic) please feel free to submit your writing to catherine@fnorky.com. Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices.

This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny

STANDARD DISCLAIMER and COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Please note that information and opinions contained in the articles in this newsletter are the responsibility of the authors only. No endorsement by Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. is implied.

All writings are copyright to their respective authors. Please obtain permission before reprinting anything here, with the exception of the Open Full Moon Dates. Those may be copied and transmitted as needed.

2014 Open Full Moon Dates

April 11
May 9
June 13
July 11
August 8
September 5
October 3
October 31
December 5